

Beulah Marion Duvall McConkie (Revised copy)

Tape #392 #393

Interviewed by: Michelle Fuller at Beulah's home at 720 North 2500 West Vernal, Utah

Transcribed by: Michelle Fuller January 30, 2006

This is Michelle Fuller with the Uintah County Regional History Center.

I'm here with Beulah McConkie interviewing her, and she is ready to give us her oral history. It's January 30, 2006.

MF: Beulah, if you would like to tell us a little bit about where you were born and who your parents are, and a little bit about your family history.

BM: All right, I was the second child, the first daughter of Alva James Duvall, and Marion Alta Manwaring. My father, came here with his brother and granddad, took one hundred and sixty acres of the homestead, half way between Naples and Jensen, when Mom and Dad got married, that's where they went. They had six children my brother Alva was eighteen months older than me then I was born, then Doris who is two and a half years younger than I, and then Velda who is still another three years younger. Then they had twin boys and it made us come up even, three girls and three boys.

Do you need their names?

MF: Yes let's get their names.

BM: "Alva was named after daddy, but daddy was called Jim, so we called him Alva Lewis (Lewis after his Grandpa), I was Beulah Marion Duvall, my middle name Marion was my mother's first name and my grandmother's middle name.

Then there is Doris, and then Velda my two sisters and my twin brother's Lavoire, and Demar."

We moved down there until we kids got big enough to start going to school, then Alva and I, being the oldest two, would ride horses' up to school in Naples. We'd just do this for the first one or two months of the school year; then we moved up to Naples and lived there during the winter. We would go back down when school was out and live on the farm again. It was just a two-room log house and it was laid up on a hill on the far side on the north side of our farm. We lived there until the road went through from Jensen to Vernal, through a corner of our place on the south side. My daddy pulled down the logs and moved the house over, so we were close enough so that we could ride a school bus. Until that school bus came that way, why it went the long way around, clear out through Davis Ward and then into town. We would have to walk the half mile to the old road and stand there and meet the school bus. When it got cold, we'd build a fire, and then we always smelled of the brush.

MF: How long would you have to wait?

BM: It all depended in those days because, sometimes the bus was slow a coming. Sometimes we would wait an hour over there before it came, other times it would be right on time. When it snowed, daddy would take the two horses, he would ride one and my brother Alvin would ride the other one and they would go the half mile over and back with the horses braking the trail. Then we could walk through the trail over to the bus. We would ride when they put a new road through there, and it came so we could just see the bus coming down the road and run out to the road and get on it and it made it real fun.

In those days you went eight years in your Elementary school, and then four years in the High School. I remember my Uncle Arthur was the principle for a while down they're in our school. And he wanted me on the back seat. I never did like a back seat. When he assigned me to go to the back seat, I said, "I don't want to sit on the back, I want to be on the front." Nope you go to the back. I didn't want to go to the back so he sent me outside to sit in a chair. They had [chairs] outside for those that were disobeying. I had to sit out there until I decided to come back in and sit on the back where he put me. Thank goodness that didn't last too long, until somebody else came in that didn't want to sit on the front, so I got to trade seats with them. But I still like to sit in the front, I never liked to sit in the back of anything.

BM: So should I tell you about going to High School?

MF: Yes

BM: After we graduated from the eighth grade then we went to High School. In those days if you wanted to have a hot lunch you ate what the gals in the morning prepared in their cooking class. Other wise you packed your own lunch and then we would go out and sit on the grass and eat your lunch or in the winter time we would go into the auditorium and sit down in there and eat our lunch.

MF: Where was your High School at?

BM: The High School is where our swimming pool is now.

MF: Oh really, What was the name of the school?

BM: Uintah High.

BM: Then we went there for four years. I always liked to play sports, I played volleyball, I played baseball, I played basketball; I never did run very good so I never did go on a track team. But it was fun being in these others. I didn't care for all the things that they made us do in gym. So we could sometimes take a dancing class instead, so I took a dancing class and I was good at it; dancing was one thing I loved to do. I got good enough that the teacher; if she needed to leave, she would leave me in charge of the class. It was nothing to have her walk out and leave me the rest of the day doing class. We did a ballerina, square dance, Spanish dancing and it seems to me

that there was one more but I can't remember what it was. But anyway we did the different kind of dance and I was good at it, and then they asked me to dance on our assembly program. And Mother said, "You don't dance in the little old ballerina dance dress," I said, "Well but mother that's what you dance in." She said, "Well you don't dance in that and go on stage." So I had to dance in just a regular dress, but it was fun.

MF: I bet, well that's neat.

Backing up just a little bit on your childhood memories, can you remember any other childhood memories that you maybe did with your siblings or your friends?

BM: Yes, we use to have a little old creek that went down through our place and we would take brooms and shovels and shovel off the snow to make a little place to skate. If we didn't shovel it off good enough, why then we'd trip and fall down. But we did have fun doing that. We loved to go out and have bon fires and roast wieners and marshmallows. In fact, when we got a little older, we made our own activities then. We would go to each others place. They would always plan on coming to our place in the summer time where we could have the bon fire and roast our wieners and marshmallows, we always had a good time.

Another thing that we liked to do was to sing. My daddy played the mandolin, and he played a guitar. The mosquitoes were awful bad down there; you didn't dare turn on a light in the summer time because the mosquitoes would get through to you and then they would bite you all night long. So after having our supper and getting our dishes done, then we would just sit with no lights and Daddy would play the guitar or the mandolin while we would sing songs. We learned a lot of love songs. I did my first singing when I was five and my brother was six; the MIA at that time, we call it Mutual now; they had road shows and we were two little hobos and so Alva and I sang our first songs at that age.

MF: Do you remember the names of those songs?

BM: I don't remember the names of those songs. But I do remember we were little hobos.

BM: Then as we got older, why my sisters and I got to sing trios together. At that time Velda was nine, Doris was eleven and I was thirteen. We were singing trios together all over. We would sing in Mutual; we would sing in a special Sacrament meeting when they wanted an extra number; we would sing up in High School and we sang at the dedication of a Davis Ward Chapel. We had a lot of fun singing together. To this day if we happen to get to sit together in a Church meeting you will find the three of us going on into three- part singing with the songs that we would sing, because it's something we learned to do.

MF: Do you remember those songs you use to sing?

BM: "Oh gracious theirs a lot of them. There was One Perfect Hour, Little Blue Bird of my Heart, and then of course the church songs that we would sing, we could sing

almost anything you wanted of our church songs."

MF: That's great! Did you have any favorite poems? I think you write poems don't you Beulah?

BM: Yes I have written so many poems I've got a book full of them. And I've kept them from the time I first started writing poems in High School English class. "I got to thinking back when I was a young, mother was getting ready to teach some of her lessons, she would need a certain poem, if we couldn't find the one that she needed then I would write a poem for her that would fit the bill. So then I got to writing poems in High School and wrote a lot of them. So then I kept those poems, I wrote poems for people that were getting married, I wrote poems for special events that were coming up, I wrote a poem for my mother, about my family and almost anything you wanted. This I have kept up until the last four years, I haven't written any since I had my stroke and can't write any more.

MF: Well that's a great talent, it's not very easy to write poetry. I think that's wonderful!

BM: If someone would tell me to write something out and I'd write it out then I'd think oh that don't sound very good and I'd start again and here I'd go into poetry. I'd write it out into poetry and like it better that way.

MF: Well that's really neat.

MF: Who were some of your favorite class mates and friends?

BM: Well, Mabel Gardner was my special friend; she was a year or two older than I. She couldn't go to school for a couple of years until she dropped back into my class so we went together. And then my other was Laura and Lola Manwaring who were my cousins, we lived in the same ward and so we were always together.

I can remember one Sunday I came up to Church and Mabel coaxed my folks into letting me go up to her place until the evening meeting. In those days we had our Sunday school then we came back at night and had Sacrament Meeting. So, I went up and spent the day with her. The boys that were visiting their uncle just across the road asked us to go for a ride with them in the car. We being two green girls we climbed in and went with them, well they started to making advances to us that weren't correct and we asked them to stop but they didn't stop. So she and I piled out of the car and started walking back, they got mad and they went back home. When they got home their uncle saw that they came back without us. He asked them where they left us. And the boys said, "well they just got out of the car, so we just left them." So he made them get back into the car and he came with them and they came back and got us and brought us home.

MF: Wow, that was quite the story.

MF: What were some of the schools that you attended?

BM: Well I only went to school in Naples and it was Naples Elementary and then to High School. That was all you had in those days. It was the Uintah High and did I tell you that it's where our swimming pool is now. They tore down the old building and put the swimming pool right there.

MF: What year did you graduate from High School?

BM: I graduated in 1937. I had met my husband. He even went with my cousin a head of this time and then they broke up.

We use to give talks in Seminary, those that won were taken to the different wards to give their talks as their speakers that night. I came up in Maeser Ward to do my talk and I met Lynn. I said, to him well just because you don't go with Laura anymore, you can still come down and join our group. And so I got to going with him. And then he was working with a guy that was building a road from here to Ranglely. So he thought we better get married and I could go over there and live with him, but then they stopped the road and he didn't have to go anymore so we waited until spring to make our plans. And then we came up to Maeser and stayed over night with his parents and it started to freeze that night so we were out their helping his folks cover up everything in their garden so it wouldn't freeze all the plants. Then we went out the next day and got married. We took his mother and my mother and his one sister Eva from here and his other sister Mary came up from Paragonah and joined us. Mary decided Lynn's suit ought to be cleaned and so she went down and put it into a cleaner and they would have it ready to go that night. When she went back to find the store she couldn't find which store and they hunted and hunted before they found that suit so that he could go to the temple and we could be married. There were twenty-three brides that night in the group.

MF: Which Temple was this?

BM: We were married in the Salt Lake Temple. It was nearly 10:30 p.m. by the time we got out of there. By then everything was closed and we couldn't find a place to eat anything and we were both starving to death. We finally found a place that was open that just gave desserts. So we got a Banana Split and that was the only thing we had that night. But it filled our belly's. So from then on we always tried on our Anniversary which was the third of June to have a banana split.

MF: What year was that?

BM: That was in 1937 June the 3rd 1937.

MF: Well that's a pretty good tradition.

MF: Maybe you could tell us a little bit about what life was like for you as a young couple after you first got married?

BM: Well when we first got married, we moved into what they used to call a parlor that they

didn't use very often, it was a room in a home used for special occasions. And they turned that into a room for Lynn and me. We had our bed, and we had a little cupboard to keep our food and our dishes in. There was a stove to cook on and we went in there and started living. We lived in there for a year. But Lynn's mother was sick and they took her out and told her that she had a very bad heart. So on Christmas day they all came over to his folks place and we ate. When we got through, she picked my son Larry up who was a baby just about six months old and Uncle Rays daughter who was just about three months old and she had the two children on her lap and she sat with them on her lap while we cleared up the dishes and put the food away. Then the rest of them went home and I picked up my little boy and Lynn's mom laid down on the bed. They had a little old cot that was in their front room and she laid down on it and she just went to sleep and died there shortly after. They called for the doctor and he got there but he said she's to near gone. And so from then on there was just his Lynn's and so we moved from our room into the house and I kept the house and did the cooking and so on for Lynn's Father for about three years. And then the rubber shortage came and Lynn worked down to the Calder's Creamery. And it was too expensive for tires and you couldn't get gas to go to town and back. So we decided we'd have to move down to town where he could ride his bike to work. So we moved down in what would be Vernal 1st Ward now on first north, and that's where we lived for a couple of years. That's where we were living when Lynn had to go in the Army.

MF: So when that rubber shortage came about was that in the 1940's?

BM: Eugene was born in 1944 and we were still living down there.

MF: So lets back up just a little bit, tell us when you started your family and when your children were born. And let's get their names.

BM: Well Larry was born in 1938 just a year after we were married. We were married on the third of June and he was born on the ninth of June a year later. Then I went for two and half years and had my only girl which was Carolyn and she was born on January (20th) 1942. Then two years later I had Eugene on the 5th of April 1944.

MF: So did you just have the two boys and the one daughter?

BM: No! I had Doug in 1948 and five years later I had my last son Terry in 1955. Lynn went into the Army, but he had three children and so when he got down to Fort Ord to be shipped over seas why they came up with a new ruling they decided that those that had so many points wouldn't go overseas and he having the three children had too many points to go over so they just kept him down in Fort Ord until just before Christmas and then they sent him home.

MF: Now where was Fort Ord?

BM: In California.

BM: He didn't let me know he was coming home. We had a little hole in the back screen on our

back porch and you could put a stick in there and flip the latch up if you knew how, and get the screen door open. And so he decided he would come in and surprise me. So he flipped that screen door open and came in, and I was in the bath tub, and of course he knew me so well and he came in ready to grab me and it's a good job he did, because I had picked up the plunger and was ready to hit whoever was a coming' through that door.

Then we lived down there for a little while longer and then Lynn's Dad was getting older and he said, come and move up here and we will build you a house. I'll give you some ground, so we moved up here in the summer time, that was about 1945 or 46, because Eugene was just about eighteen months old. We pitched two tents out here, and we lived in the tents while we put up the forms and poured the basement. We had two bedrooms down there, our front room and our kitchen. We lived there for nearly four years. Then I had Douglas, he was born, when it got winter we decided it was too cold for a baby down there. So we build up on the top and finished up here and moved up here before the winter set in. And that would have been in 1950.

MF: And so you have lived here ever since; That's great!

BM: And we had one more son and that was Terry Lynn. He is the youngest, and he was born in 1954. There's five years between Eugene my third son and Douglas, and theirs five years between Douglas and Terry.

MF: So how many boys was that then?

BM: That's four boys and one girl.

MF: Well that's quite a family.

BM: And they are all still alive except Carolyn, we lost her with cancer.

MF: And what year was that?

BM: Oh gracious! That was about five years ago. (May 2001).

MF: Lets go back a little bit into your childhood, theirs a few memories that I think you wanted to share with us that we didn't get before.

BM: Well our ward used to go down to the Green River. We used to have a half day Saturday as a special time to do anything you wanted, so that you didn't break the Sabbath day. And so our ward would go down to Green River, we would go in cars and if you didn't have a car, Mike Rupe would take his big high truck and we would ride in the back of the truck. We would go down there and the men would go out and make sure where the whirlpools were, and where it was deep. The little kids could play where it was shallow and we would all stay away from where the whirlpools were that would pull you in under. We would play and jump off of each other shoulders and do a dive and just had a lot of fun in the water. Then we would get out at night and build a bon fire and roast wieners and marshmallows and our folks would make a

potato salad and we just had a real feast. Then we would come back home and we did this all the time I was growing up. One time after I got married, one time I had a nightmare and I thought we were down at the river and my sister Velda had slipped away from me and was being caught in the whirlpool and pulled down and I couldn't get to her. My folks didn't have a phone and so the next morning it was so vivid, after I got Lynn to work, I got in the car and drove to my parent's place and said, "don't you let Velda go down to Green River to swim anymore, and she said, Oh Beulah we quit that years ago, we decided we were taking a big chance and we better quit that and so they don't do that any more.

MF: Well I was curious to know how you got your name? That's a beautiful name!

BM: Well that was something funny. My mother thought she was making it up even to the spelling of it. And now I find that there's been Beulah spelled just like mine "BEULAH" even over in France many years before I was born. But there was a song at that time called Bulla Bulla, mother loved the song, and she thought well, I ought to have a daughter that was named something like that. So she thought she would say "Beulah" instead of Bulla Bulla so she took up that and it was years before we found out that Beulah was something that had been around for a long time.

MF: Well I haven't heard that name too often.

BM: We've got three or four in the valley with the same name they aren't all spelled alike. But their all pronounced Beulah. B-U-L-I-A was away Bulia Pummel, spelled hers and it's the only time I've heard it. I haven't heard anybody since then but there's about four of us in the valley with that same name.

MF: Any other fun memories?

BM: One time I'd been to town, and when I came home I went to turn into the drive way, and I noticed that the brake was a little funny and I had to plug down a time or two to slow down enough to come into the drive way. But I didn't think anything about it and I went on into the garage the driveway has a little down hill slope to it and as I went to it I hit the brake and no brake, and I hit the brake and no brake and I kept hitting the brake and there were no brakes, the brakes had gone completely. So the car stopped when it hit the back wall of the garage it even knocked the bottom of the logs out of the garage. My husband was in the house and he came a running out and he looked at me and where I was. And he didn't even ask or say are you hurt or is everything ok. He just said, "I hope you're satisfied!" And turned around and went back into the house.

MF: Oh my goodness! Did you get hurt?

BM: No, I wasn't hurt at all. I took my boys and they took axes and went around the back and helped knock the poles back in until we had it standing up good again.

BM: I remember one time we had an April fool party and I was over it. I can't remember now how come I was over it. Maybe, because I was a Relief Society President I don't know. But I had

spent the entire night getting all kinds of April fool jokes on everybody. Like eating a piece of cheese but it looked like leather. Dropping a bug in the bottom of, they're, glass that was just a little rubber bug, and all these kinds of things I had worked on all night long. And pulled the April fool jokes. When it was all over and we started to tidying up and getting things put away so we could lock the building. We had one other couple that stayed with us to help us lock up. And we locked up and went out and no car! We walked around the house to see if it was hid back behind the house. No car! I said, I'll bet they pushed it across the street to Ethel Palmers place, and we went over there and looked and no car? And so the couple said "Come on we will take you home and well come and get you in the morning and well go look for this car." We've got to find it somewhere? So they brought us home and we turned in our driveway and started to pull down, and low and behold they're in our garage sat the car. I never did ask who did it and I didn't find out until about five years ago, who brought the car home. I don't know if they hot-wired it or just pulled it, well anyway they got it into our garage.

MF: Well they April fooled you didn't they?

MF: Do you have any other fun stories you would like to share, what about riding a bike?

BM: Oh! There were a few things that I absolutely could not do. I wanted to ride a bike. Lynn had one of these tall bikes, and I decided I would go and try to ride it. They didn't have girls' bikes at that time. They were always boys' bikes. So I got on it, and tried it, and I couldn't get on it. I finally got on it and got to pedaling a little and ended up going down in the bar pit. And I never could ride that bike. And I never did learn to ride a bike. And another thing I never did learn to do, was ice skate, or roller skate. We used to have a roller skating rink right here by the trailer park the floor was on spings and would give as you rolled around on it and I tried to learn and

I couldn't. I kept throwing my hand down to break my fall. My hand got so sore we went to the doctor to see what was the matter. And he said, "Well when you throw this hand down to catch yourself your hurting it and soon you will break your wrist so I stopped.

MF: Beulah would you like to share with us some responsibilities that you have had at home or in community?

BM: Well I have done a lot of things. I have been in the PTA presidency. I remember one time I was in the presidency with a fellow who wasn't LDS. When we went there, he said; don't you ask any LDS people to be on any of our boards? You would always have a board. You would have one over the activities, and one over the refreshments.

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And I'd let him suggest somebody and nobody would take it and nobody would take it. Finally he said, well get your LDS friends and let us get this going. Because he found out that if we said we would do something we would do it.

MF: What school was that?

BM: That was down at the Junior High School. It had changed to the Junior High by then because they had built the new High School. The Junior High had taken over there. My daughter was in the Junior High and so we went there.

BM: I did a lot of leading of the singing. When I was a girl growing up my Uncle Duvall was the Chorister in the ward. He decided that we needed more choristers and so he started a class. After church he'd spend twenty or thirty minutes teaching us to lead the singing. And I enjoyed it, and it wasn't too long, about a year later, when they put me in as the assistant Chorister to the Sunday School. And the assistant choristers always lead one song every Sunday. And that's where I started leading the singing. Then I lead the singing in Mutual. I lead the singing in Sunday school. When we got married, it wasn't very long until they the ward started me leading the singing up here. One year I lead the singing in Sunday School I lead the singing in Mutual. I lead the singing in the Sacrament Meeting. I even went to church early in the mornings and took the boys out of their Priesthood sessions to teach them a song so they could sing for their Sunday night program. I lead singing with youth choruses'. I even went one time and they asked me to sing. And someone else took over the meeting and the lady said; you can't sing that song it's too high. And I said well that's funny I can reach it when I need to, so I went ahead and sang it. Anyway I have done a lot of leading and I never did realize how important it was until I became a President. And I knew how important it was to have people there that had your songs ready for you and you didn't have to worry about it.

MF: It's an important job, and not a lot of people can do that.

MF: Any other community things that you have done that we haven't had a chance to talk about? Maybe we could talk about the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers?

BM: Well I've been in Daughters of the Utah Pioneers for years. But my ancestors came more than two years too late for me to be a member. So I have had to be just an Honorary member. I've never been a President of it, because you have to be a member to be President, and that was fine. But I gave the lesson for over ten, fifteen years. And it was fun. Then I started losing my eye sight. I decided to give that up, because I have macular degeneration. So I couldn't do that any more and I had to give it up.

I've been a councilor in the Primary, I've been a President of the Relief Society, I've been a President of the Mutual. In fact my husband and I were in the Presidencies of the Young Men and the Young Women's mutual for years together. Then our children got old enough. Our two oldest children tended the younger children while we went, when our two oldest ones got to be old enough to go to mutual. We went to the Bishop and told him he would have to release one of us. Because one of us would have to be home with the two smaller children now, we were losing the others too mutual. I was sure that they would release Lynn, they didn't, they released me and kept him. But it didn't only go only about two months and then they put me in the Relief Society Presidency. That was jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire I remember when I was expecting my last baby. I asked the Bishop if he could release me because I needed to be home with my baby. He said, that I'll give you a third councilor, but I won't release you. After the baby was born, I'd take him to Relief Society with me. In those days we made our extra money, we

made pillow cases, aprons, sun bonnets and all kinds of things and sold them. We bought silverware that went into the Chapel, we bought glasses so we would have something to drink out of and we made the money to do it. I had a councilor, and she was forever laying her keys down. And my little boy was just about two years old could have been three. But he, was forever putting keys in his pocket. And I had a set of old keys that I had put together at home and told him now these are yours and you may use these and put them in your pocket but don't take our others. But then we were always putting our keys up. Well this sister laid her keys down on a chair and I didn't notice it. And when my daughter came from school then she'd come and pick up my little boy and bring him home out of my way so that we could finish up the work day. And Carolyn took Terry home. I went ahead with my councilor putting things away. We got everything put away and ready to go. She reached for her keys and they weren't there, and she went looking all over and I said; where did you put them? And she said on that chair. And we hunted and we hunted. And I said, oh dear! I've got a little boy who loves keys. Do you suppose he would put those in his pocket? Well we climbed into my car and came back over here to my house and sure enough the little boy had put them in his pocket and still had them in his pocket. But she was so upset over it that she gave up being my Relief Society councilor and I had to get me a new one.

MF: Lets talk about some of your work experiences, Did you ever work?

BM: Yes! When Lynn was working up on the mountain for the forest service, and he would be off during the winter, and there wouldn't be any money coming in. So I was a good friend to Lola Christensen who was over the lunch program. And she said; Beulah come and be my three-hour girl. Well that was all right with me, and that would give us just enough money to tide us over the three months that Lynn was off. And so I started working, but I only went three hours during the day. This went on for a couple of year's. But then she said to me, you need to take a full time job for me. And I said, I don't want a full time job. I was working at the time at the Junior High and she said, well I'm going to have to move you down to Central, you will either have to be the head cook or have to go underneath this other cook because she's the only other one that has put in to be head-cook. And I thought, I couldn't be underneath her I just couldn't. So I took a full time job. And it was a good job. At that time they changed Lynn's job, and he comes down here to work. I had a full time job, and from then on I, never could seem to get a place where I felt like I could quit. It's terrible to get started at a job, and you just keep being needed, and they can't do without you. I had a principle who was Ashel Evans at that time, and he came down one day and he said, there was a new school going up, and he said, you better go over and make it official. I put your name in to be the head cook over at the new school. He said you need that experience.

MF: What was the name of the school?

BM: It was called Discovery.

MF: So I went over and told them I'd take it. And they said yes, we'll accept it. And so I was able to help design the school kitchen have. One day they had people come in from Salt Lake looking over the new school to see how it was doing. They said to our Principle who was

Colleen Colton at this time. You have a back log in your assignments in your kitchen you need to move that lunch line faster than its going, what can you do about it? And she said I'll take care of it. They said, just before they left well what are you going to do about it? And she said, I turned it over to Beulah she'll take care of it.

So they came back a month later to see how it was going and by then we'd worked it out, I designed two ways to go through the lunch line instead of waiting until they got up front to decided which dish they wanted. And we offered two different dishes. And we cut our serving time down nearly thirty minutes.

So it was fun to work in those different things.

MF: Do you remember the year that you took that job at Discovery, and how long you were a cook?

BM: No, but I was cook for twenty-five years.

MF: Really, so you worked for twenty-five years, wow that's quite a long time.

BM: Yes that was the year I retired.

MF: What year was that you retired?

BM: 1986, so I gave up in the spring of 1986 when the school quit. Dan Turner was over the school lunch program. And so he got a quilt made for me and they gave me a quilt as a going away present.

MF: Any other things that we haven't covered that you would like to talk about?

BM: We used to have quite a lot of fun going to each others homes and playing Rook. We had Ed and Lee Jenkins and their wives and Lynn and I and once in while we would have one other couple that would join us. But we would just go to each other's homes. And it was nothing for us to play Rook until midnight before we'd go home.

MF: What are some of the things you used to do with your own children, or do you remember any fond memories you enjoyed doing as a family.

BM: Well we always were a sports family. Lynn loved to play ball, and he played ball, until he was about seventy years old. And you could always plan on him making one home run every single time at least, and once in a while he'd get two home runs during the evening that they played the other team. And we had to keep score. Would you believe that they would make me learn to keep score? I said, I can mark down the numbers, but I said, the rest of it I can't do. And they said, yes you can, so they taught me how. They'd run them around the bases and you would mark 1-4 on the score card, and that was my job the rest of the time. All the time that he finished playing and he played until he was about seventy years old. Our boys played baseball and Gene played football and I didn't want him to play I was afraid to death he would get hurt. They loved sports they even did some wrestled; and volleyball. Then they took the girls and the boys and

put them both together, playing volleyball and they had fun that way. My daughter Carolyn got awards for being the fastest pitch and hit on the girl's team she threw so hard and fast that most of the girls were afraid to catch the ball for her so several times I had to fill in and catch for their team.

We never did go fishing very much, until my oldest boy Larry got married, and moved out to Salt Lake. And he came out here one time and went up to North Fork and the fish was just a biting like mad. He sent his son back down on the scooter. And said, tell grandma to grab the two young boys and come and get these fish. And so we went up and fished but that was about the only time we went fishing.

When the kids were little we use to take them for rides and look at the deer and other animals, and Lynn and the boys went hunting. They did that quite along time, until the boys were big enough that they did their own deer hunting. One time after Lynn had been out hunting and was cleaning his gun. And I said to him make sure you got your gun unloaded. He got upset with me, and said of course I have it unloaded see! And he pulled it up and pulled the trigger, and he didn't have it unloaded and it buzzed past my hair and I could even feel it. And it scared him so bad that he laid the gun up, and he never did go hunting again.

MF: Oh! that is scary!

MF: I have a question? What strengths do you have as a parent?

BM: Oh! I don't know as if I have much strength as a parent.

I've have been able to keep the kid's close, and they still love me, even though they're inactive. Quite often they would drift away from me when they went inactive, but even then they would still talk to me, they still come to see me. And if they can't get up to see me then they call. It's been a lovely thing to have Teresa moved in behind me. She's my granddaughter, she's Carolyn's only child, she and her husband Steve have moved in behind me and they are good to me. They take me to church, they take me to the Temple, they bring me the groceries I need. They will run any kind of an errand for me. Since I don't drive anymore, and can't read anymore, why Teresa will bring all my groceries to me. And it's been lovely to have them back behind me. They came back after Carolyn passed away. Carolyn's husband moved down Arkansas and married another gal and we haven't heard from him since. But it's been real nice for Steve & Teresa to build their new home and it's a lovely home. And they are good to me. Steve mows my lawn and trims my trees, and Teresa weeds my flowers and they keep me a going.

MF: That's great.

MF: So tell me, how many Grandchildren do you have?

BM: I have twenty-nine grandchildren including step grandchildren 56 great grandchildren including step great grandchildren and I have three great-great grandchildren.

MF: Wow that's quite the posterity!

MF: Is there anything that you would like to say to your posterity? What makes you the most proud of your posterity?

BM: Well, I love them feeling close to me. I love them being busy. And they are busy doing different things, I have my oldest son, when he retired and his marriage broke up he came back to Vernal. He said, it's easier for me to come back here and live and help mother, and than go out to see my kids when I get a chance. And so he along with Teresa, they take turns of taking me to the temple. Larry takes me Thursday afternoon and Teresa picks me up Thursday night. And Teresa takes me early on Saturday morning, and Larry picks me up at eleven Saturday afternoon and brings me home. And we usually eat lunch that day together. Teresa is afraid that I might burn myself now that I have to use a walker all the time, and so, she's taken cooking over and brings me a hot meal every evening and make sure I have simple foods to fix for breakfast and sometimes lunch unless she brings me lunch. She take good care of me.

MF: Well that's great! It's always nice to have family that will do that.

MF: You've lived here all your life it sounds like, and we always like to get a little information about what the community was like. Can you share with us any memories about the community, or the churches, or anything that would be interesting, that we haven't covered?

MF: Which ward were you in at the time when you served in the LDS Church?

BM: It was down to Naples Ward, and that's where I first started.

MF: And then when you and your husband were married and living here?

BM: Then we were in Maeser Ward. When we went to town, we lived in the Vernal First Ward. And then of course, when we came back up here in Maeser and built our home the ward was Maeser 1st and then they divided the ward and we went over to the Ashley Ward Chapel and we became Maeser Third Ward. Then we grew so fast and big, they had to pick it up again and divide us again and we come back to Maeser First Ward again. And we've lived in this same house all the time. After Lynn worked for the forest service he worked for the Calder's Creamery and then he was a school bus driver for many years and then he was the custodian for the Junior High and then he took a position for the church being the ward custodian. He worked there until he retired. And then they needed a part time custodian and so even though I was working at the school. I would be the part time custodian. When I would come home from school, I would go over to the Chapel where he was and help take care of things there. It was over there, if we had only known it, Lynn started going down with Alzheimer's at this time, because I can remember, one year over there when I came home from work and went over. He said, Beulah we've got to have heat in the Chapel and I said, "Just run up stairs and light the pilot and set it a going." But I can't find it? And I told him where to go and what he should do. He climbed up those stairs, and I went ahead doing what I was doing. And he came back down the stairs and he said, I can't find it? And so I had to go and put the pilot light on, and light it and show him how to turn it up. And he said, you turn it up and I'll go downstairs and turn it off

when I need to. And that was the first time, that I remember him losing what he had known and done before. And then he just slowly started forgetting things that he had done all of his life. And I could remember he wanted to go home teaching still, and yet he couldn't remember the message that he was to give. So it was quite a job to keep him a going. And then he got to where he couldn't go to church and he got worse. And they sent a Nurse up here to give me about two hours a day that I didn't have to be with him. I remember one Sunday morning it was Mothers Day and my daughter in-law Pat came over from Roosevelt, that's Eugene's wife, and Carolyn were here and we were going to go to Church. I came out ready to go and he jumped up and was going to go with me. I said, no honey you can't go today, he was so upset but the Nurse convinced him to stay with her.

MF: Well you've had some challenges in your life then to, haven't you?

BM: Yes we kept Lynn at home between my daughter Carolyn and me. They moved back from Craig, and lived in a little trailer right here behind me where Teressa lives now. Teressa & Steve came home almost every weekend to help us with Lynn And between us we kept him here and kept him going. But every once in a while he'd fall down and I'd have to call Carolyn and say your Daddies down, come help me get him up again and get him into bed. But we did keep him here until he passed away.

MF: Oh, that's to bad.

MF: Looking back at some of your experiences. Where they're some that you wanted to share with us earlier that we didn't cover?

BM: Well I was remembering some of the trips that the cooks had taken, as we worked through the years. During the summer time they would always take a trip somewhere. And this one time they were going to Hawaii. Our superintendent told us that if we furnished our own commodities that we could use the school facilities and bake rolls, and bread and so on, and sale them and make money to go on this trip to Hawaii. And they made enough money that they each could take them and their spouse with them. I made enough to take Lynn with me, but he refused to go he said darned if he was going to go over that water and have to jump out into it. And I said, "Well it would be better to be jumping out into water, than it would be to jump out into the ground." But he wouldn't go with me, so I went anyway. And we went to Hawaii, and we had a wonderful time. I saw some native gals down there on the shore line and they were down picking up something. And of course me being curious like I am, I stepped over the little fence and went down there and asked? What are you picking up? They said, puka shells and they showed me the little puka shells. And said, you get some, puka shells! So I started getting some puka shells, not noticing what was going on and not realizing that the water was coming in more to the shore, all at once, I looked up and here comes the water a roaring in. I was in street clothes, I tell you I sure jumped and ran and got back over there and just managed before the water hit. But we had a wonderful time down there.

There were twenty-four of us, went here from the valley. And when we got out to Salt Lake and met some other cooks there was three hundred of us. And we went to the different little Islands

by air plane, and then if you got one day that you could stay on that same little island and go by bus and we were driving around to these little shops and wanted a dress, but I wanted a special Hawaiian dress. We were going along and going along and when we pulled into this one little place. And I said, Oh! There's my dress right in there. So I hurried when they stopped the bus. And I went into that store, and I said, I want the dress, only I want it in my size, I've always been a little big so, I'd have to take a bigger size. And she said, one fit all, and I said, "No it won't fit me," you've got to have a bigger size for me. No one fit all. So I went and put it on and truly enough it fit all, So then I bought it. Then I decided I'd better have a shirt for Lynn, So I went hunting a shirt for him and I brought back his shirt to him. We've used those many times. My grand daughter Teressa and her husband Steve, had a trip going to Hawaii this last year. So I gave them the dress and the shirt. They went down there and got a lot of compliments. In fact Steve says, that a guy told him he would give him \$200.00 if he'd sell him that shirt. But he said it was a keepsake sorry. He even won a prize for the most original shirt at his company party it was fun.

After our cook's trip we came back and we had money enough so we went to Chicago the next year, we ditched the Chicago convention, and went over to New York, and we took in a play there, and then we went up to the maid in the mist and went under the Niagra Falls. We got to see that. Then we came out. And I said, Oh but I want to say, I've been out of the United States. So let's go across and eat dinner into Canada and then come back. And they had these little cars that run up the out side of the homes to get to the top. The girls wanted to ride one of those cars. But I didn't want to go with them. So I said, well I will gas the car, and I'll wait here for you. But be sure you're ready by a certain time, because we will have to get to the airport and turn in this car and go back. So I waited for them and I waited for them and they didn't come and they didn't come. Finally when they came back, I said, well I don't know whether I can make it before our plane goes or not. They said well when it was time to come back, we had just finally got to ride that little car up. And we just had to ride it. So I drove as fast as I dared and just as we pulled into the airport, I said, I bet that is our plane. And we went in, and it sure was. I asked, how far is it to the next town? I forget the name of the town now? And they said, just sixty miles. And I said, can I drive this car there, and you pick it up there? Oh yes! So I drove the car down there and we met up with the rest of our group and finished our trip. Then we wanted to go to the Hill Kumorah Pageant when we got there. So we went hunting for that, and we got see it. And it was raining, and they said we still want to see it. So we sat in the rain and saw it and went back home. We took another trip to Seattle Washington, only the head cooks went on this trip and the gal who was suppose to set up the trip forgot to turn in our money and reserve our trip and so when we got ready to go we didn't have our money or our trip so we called one of the other gals at the main office and she got on the phone and set up our trip since the first gal who had our money was out of town. So we were able to still go. When we got there and checked in we took a boat trip around the area to see some of the sites and we did a lot of sit seeing and had a lot of fun. And that was our trips' with the cooks.

MF: Well that sounds fun! You're a world traveler it sounds like.

MF: Did you want share with us about your 80th Birthday Party?

BM: Oh! My 80th birthday party was really a blast! I didn't know the kids were planning it for me, and Teresa & Carolyn bought me a new dress, and hung it up in my closet, and I said well, I won't wear it until I go to church. Teresa said, well, but you still needed a new dress. My two sister's Velda and Doris came out with Velda's daughter Lynette and surprised me, we went to the temple the next day and then later that evening we all went to the Golden Corral and ate dinner with my kids and normally I would ride back to my house with Carolyn or Teresa but they both made excuses that they needed to run an errand so my youngest son Terry and his family offered to drive me home, when I got in the car his youngest son Travis said he needed to go by the Golden Age Center and get some things for Scouts and so I rode down there and Terry said, I don't know how long this will take so come in with us so I did. I never guessed anything, there seemed to be a few cars there.

Terry open the door and I went in and everybody hollered surprise! And they had brought my family in from Salt Lake, all my grand kids. Everybody was there, and Teresa grabbed me and said come to the restroom I grabbed your new dress and I even got you new shoes, so I went and changed. They had a program, and food and there was lots of my friends and people from the ward came and spoke and told stories about my life and what crazy things they remembered about me. Teresa and Carolyn made and decorated a huge cake for me with all these beautiful things that mean so much to me like there was a temple and music pages and gardening item's and family items on this cake it was wonderful.

The next morning Teresa & Steve got up and said Grandma you've got to come with us this morning, and I said where do you want me to go and they said, it was a surprise. We drove to town and when we pulled into the parking lot all my kids were there parked in their cars and trucks and there was a huge bright colored hot air balloon being blown up on the lawn and they said lets go for a ride and I was surprised, and I kept hanging out of the basket to see the ground below and Teresa was so afraid I would fall out.

MF: Is that something you've always wanted to do?

BM: That's something I've always wanted to do!

MF: Really, that would be fun. So was this here in town? .

BM: Yes it's here in town, it's down where the middle school is now, it used to be the Junior High. They took us all over the valley here. And we got to see it all, they even lowered the balloon and went right over the temple.

MF: Tell us about your temple experiences.

BM: Well, it was a blessing when Lynn passed away and wasn't suffering any longer and I tried to stay busy. Then one day I got a call, and they wanted me to work in the temple. I was so excited. I was at the ground breaking ceremony, and I sat behind President Gordon B.Hinkley and I got to see him break ground for the ceremony, and I got to throw a shovel full too. So I knew it was getting ready to open. And so I started working at the temple they started me working on Saturday morning as an ordinance worker on the floor, and Thursday night up in the

sealing office. And I said all right. I had been there about a week, and the Matron came and said, Beulah would you take Saturday morning up in the sealing office and I said, Oh but that's my day to work, as an ordinance worker out on the floor.

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So another week went by, and I met the Matron again. And I said, did you get someone to take it? And she said, "No I didn't, I'm still trying to get someone". And I said, Well all right I'll take Saturday morning then and work in the sealing office and move my day as an ordinance worker to another day". I said, just tell me where they need me and I'll go there. And so she told me that on Tuesday morning they were shy, and so I went to Tuesday morning. For several years, I worked three days a week. And this took up all the extra time that I had been sitting around, because Lynn wasn't here anymore. So I did this for several years. But before then they had asked me to schedule the sealing office sisters, and keep them going. I worked with Brother Todd, at that for years. And then I started losing my eye sight with macular degeneration, and when it got so bad that I couldn't see any more I told them I'd have to give it up. So I gave up trying to keep them there. And then I had a stroke, I managed to get my foot back but I couldn't write with my hand, so I decided that I couldn't use the walker and move every hour, from place to place. So I had to give that up, and so for the last three or four years I've only done the two office sealing's on Thursday night and on Saturday morning. And I'm still doing that and loving it.

MF: Well, I'm amazed at how well you do. You're doing quite bit, for what you have been through.

MF: I 'm trying to think if we left any thing else out. I know you were telling me the other day about riding your horse. And I know we didn't get that. I know transportation was really hard back then?

BM: Oh yes, the first thing I remember was taking the team. My Dad and Mother would get us all in the wagon and we would be heading up to Naples to the chapel about Sunday morning just as the sun rose. And would take us that long to get up there in the wagon. And we would go to Sunday School and my Grandma Manwarring was good at this time and so she'd have us come down there and eat lunch. And then we'd go back in the evening and go to the evening meeting. Which would be sacrament meeting then, and then, we would ride in the wagon, all the way home.

Then when we got a little older and they were having things at mutual, there were several times my brother and I would just get on a horse and we'd go up to a play practice or to a dance practice or what have you. And Mama wanted me to ride the old horse that was so tamed and she was sure that we would be ok. And I didn't want to I wanted the little filly that was really a race horse. In fact my brother had taken her up to the fair ground's and had put her in the race. And she won all the races. So we knew she could go. And I told mother, I said, if ever I got stopped by a stranger I wanted a horse that could get away. I knew if I got on Old Brownie and threw her out through that field, they couldn't catch me. And I could get free. So my mother

gave in and I continued to ride that horse. We found out as we grew up. When we were first about five and six years old, we would herd the sheep cause we always had sheep. The sheep would go out about sunrise. And then they would come in and shade up about ten o'clock and then they wouldn't go out again until about three or four in the afternoon. And then they would go out and feed until it was night. So our first job was to do that. Then we got old enough to ride a horse and we followed the cows. Now the cows didn't shade up like that, they ate until they were full and then came in and laid down underneath the big ole cotton wood trees and laid there as long as they wanted. Then they got up and went out, so you stayed on the horse so you were able to keep them out of other people's fields. And so we did the cows this way. I remember one time. I went to get the horses to bring them in. I got on the horse that I usually rode in. And she got her feet caught in barbed wire and she started bucking, and kicking. And I rode her and rode her until she got out of that wire and stopped. And then I climbed off of her and wouldn't get back on, and I led her all the way home. And Daddy sat there laughing, he said, you rode her until she stopped bucking and then you got off and walk home?

MF: So did you always farm sheep and cattle?

BM: Right. We always had about fifteen cows to milk and we would have to get up in the morning and milk the cows, then come in. We had an old separator that would take the cream out and we'd feed the skim milk that was left to the calves and to the pigs. We would save the cream, we'd make our own butter and once a week we would put the cream that we got into a can and hitch it onto the saddle and take it about a two-hour drive up to where the guy picked up the cream. He would meet us and he would bring our check from the week before and give it to us and take and dump our cream into his big cans then he would go on and get more cream. And finally he asked a sister if he could make her place a stopping place. And he'd leave a can for us all to dump our cream into it. He'd leave the cans and the check, and we'd pick it up and we'd go on home, then we wouldn't have to wait until he came. When I was growing up we lived in a small log cabin and we use to put material, called factory over the ceilings, because the plain roof tops was there. And there was no ceiling on it, so we had a white factory that we put up. There were little boards with little nails that we put along the sides? We tied it there and we'd take it down each summer and wash it, and dry it, we'd put the irons on the stove, and iron them and put it back up and it was ready to go for the next year.

MF: It sounds like you had a lot of responsibilities, and learned a lot of hard work, when you were young.

BM: We did in those days. We learned to get mud and dob up the holes on the outside to keep the wind and that from coming in during the winter. After Daddy moved the house over near the road they put a little lean to on it and that's where Alva and Grandpa had their bed. And when the twins got big enough they needed to get out of mom and dads bed, until then why we three girls were sleeping together in one bed. Then I moved over and they put one more bed in there and I moved over into that bed and took the two twins in with me. I stayed with the twins until I got married. We didn't have any electricity, but we used an old coal oil lamp. We would put a little curling iron down in that coal oil lamp and get it hot. Curl your hair then they got water wave combs'.

MF: Where you a teenager at that time?

BM: Yes, I went down to bring the cows in and I had those combs in my hair and I lost some. It fell out as I was chasing the cows and getting them in. We all used those little water wave combs. And we would put them in and and let them sit until they were dried and you had your hair curled. And I knew that I was to pass them down to my sister. And I got home and half those combs were gone and I had to go back down along the path and try to find them. I went back down and back and I couldn't find a one. And I thought Oh my word I've got to find something somewhere. And so I stopped and prayed and started walking along and behold off to the side, I found the combs. And then we could go ahead and fix our hair for church.

MF: What have you learned from your life experiences?

BM: That it pays to be busy, regardless of what happens to come, you can always get around it and do the best you can without it. You don't ever want to sit back and say oh, my life is over, and I can't do this. Because there is always something we can do.

MF: Were there any special phrases you ever said? Or is there something you are known for?

BM: Oh Shoot! Is a phrase I often said, when things don't go right or my kids didn't want to do something new.

MF: What was your most favorite memory you hold most dear?

BM: I think being married in the temple was probably the most famous one. I remember how good it felt being sealed that way, and knowing that I was being sealed for time and eternity. And that if you lived right your families could be forever. And that's the best one.

MF: And that's a good one.

MF: What kind of legacy have you created for your family?

BM: Well just a legacy of being together and loving each other, and knowing that we can ask each other for anything we need. I've got the one son who doesn't drive any more. So Larry my oldest son, picks him up and takes him, to get groceries and to doctors appointments and such and this is the way we do. Somebody picks up in our family and helps do what the others can't do. It's good to feel that close to each other.

MF: Well that's what families are for, I think, that's great that you have established that with your children, and you have a wonderful family it sounds like.

BM: I do!

MF: Well, you should be very proud of them. Mrs. McConkie, we appreciate your willingness to do your oral history here with us. We'll get this ready for you and ready for the History Center. We appreciate your time. You've lived a remarkable life and you've got a great family. And we thank you.